

Approved For Release 2004/10/13 : CIA-RDP88-01315R000300310009-9  
AUG 11 1965

## More Students Learn Russian, but Demand Still Outstrips Supply

Red Science Gains Spur Need For Translators Here; USSR Teaches English Extensively

By LEE BERTON

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

George Christman, a lanky, bespectacled 18-year-old, is a type of student that Federal officials and many businessmen would like to see more of. He is spending much of his time this summer on the sundeck of his parents' ranch-style home in Glastonbury, Conn., reading the novels of Aleksander Sergeevich Pushkin—in the original Russian. In the fall, after six years of high school and junior high studies in the language, he'll enter Colgate University as a Russian major.

The ranks of students like George who are learning Russian in U.S. schools and colleges have swelled since the Soviet Union launched its first space satellite in October 1957. But companies and Government agencies say there aren't yet nearly enough Russian language translators and teachers to satisfy needs being created by Soviet technical and scientific advances, which the U.S. must watch, and by increasing East-West trade.

This fall some 35,000 students in 600 colleges and universities will be studying Russian, up from only 16,000 collegians at 350 schools before Sputnik. An estimated 25,000 public school students also will be learning the language, compared with 4,000 in 1957. The U.S. Office of Education is awarding more than 200 fellowships this year, each paying from \$450 to \$2,700, to defray undergraduates' costs of studying Slavic languages, of which Russian is the principal one. It gave out 125 such fellowships last year, and only 50 in 1958.

### More Slavic Language Centers

The Federal agency also is providing \$1.5 million in grants to match funds raised by colleges for support of Slavic language centers. Such grants totaled only \$700,000 in 1964 and \$75,000 in 1960. The number of undergraduate Slavic language centers on U.S. campuses will rise to 12 this fall when six new ones open at Boston College, Oregon's Portland State College and Ohio State, Pennsylvania State, Louisiana State and Princeton Universities.

Still, Government figures indicate only one out of every 300 U.S. citizens speaks Russian, while one of every 23 Soviet citizens speaks English. This checks with the impressions of Vladimir Bogachev, first secretary of the Russian Embassy's information service in Washington.

"There's hardly a tiny hamlet or village in the Soviet Union where someone doesn't speak English, while I've found few people who speak Russian in most of the big cities I've visited," says Mr. Bogachev. He estimates that 30% of elementary school

children, and 75% of high schoolers, in the USSR learn English, and adds that 700 Soviet secondary schools currently conduct most of their classes entirely in English.

Many in the U.S. are concerned that schools here aren't yet turning out Russian-speaking grads on anything like this scale. "With Russian rapidly supplanting German as the second language of science after English, it's becoming more critical each day that the U.S. have more Soviet language scholars," says A. Bruce Gaarder, foreign language specialist for the U.S. Office of Education.

### "Scouring the Countryside"

The Library of Congress is "scouring the countryside" trying to hire at least 40 Russian language translators a year to replace retiring Russian emigres in its aerospace technology division, says a library official. But recruiting trips to 45 colleges in the last 18 months have netted only 20 translators.

Mrs. Nora Lejins, of the State Department's languages services division, recalls: "It took us 20 months, until August last year, to find a new translator to accompany visiting Soviet dignitaries, after the woman who had held the post left to get married."

Bunker-Ramo Corp., Conoga Park, Calif., has been seeking a Russian linguist since last March for a computer translation project. "We'd be willing to pay up to \$14,000 a year for the right man," says Paul Garvin, project manager.

Frank Wong, chief of the Commerce Department's clearinghouse for Federal scientific and technical information, says lack of a translator with a knowledge of metallurgy is adding three weeks to the time it takes his staff to translate vital Soviet chemical, mining, metalworking and aerospace publications. "It's almost impossible to obtain good Russian translators for specific scientific disciplines," says Mr. Wong.

Language specialists say only about 6% of U.S. scientists speak or read Russian, while more than 40% of Soviet scientists speak English. Not surprisingly, they add, the Russians are far ahead of the U.S. in translating scientific data.

The All-Union Institute of Scientific & Technical Information, Moscow's five-story "translation mill," employs 2,200 full-time language specialists and calls on another 20,000 researchers and industrialists for part-time help. Experts estimate the Soviets abstract some 500,000 U.S. scientific articles annually

at the Moscow Institute, while fewer than 200,000 Soviet articles are handled a year by hundreds of separate Government, commercial and professional societies' translating staffs in the U.S.

U.S. educators point to the rigid organization of Soviet society as a prime reason for Russian superiority in language translation. The chairman of one Slavic language department says the Soviet version of a campus recruiter has the authority to select students who will be assigned to translating jobs. "In the U.S., most Russian-speaking graduates prefer teaching the language to the boredom of translating jobs," he says.

Some Federal men believe computers can be used to close the "translation gap." The Central Intelligence Agency soon will install Russian language translating equipment made by International Business Machines Corp. The Air Force this year awarded contracts to Rand Corp., Santa Monica, Calif., and Bunker-Ramo for development of computers capable of translating Russian into English automatically.

U.S. colleges are putting more emphasis on Soviet publications and culture as tools for teaching Russian. University of Wisconsin students in Slavic courses read Pravda and Izvestia, the Communist Party and state papers; Komsomol, the Red youth publication; and Krokodil, a Soviet satirical magazine.

U.S. students attending Indiana University's Slavic summer workshop this year are living at a collective farm and sports camp in the Soviet Union, studying at the Lenin State Library and attending plays at a Moscow theater. "Cultural contacts like this speed learning manifold," says Albert C. Todd, Workshop director. "It takes a trip to Russia to discover a 'square' in America is a 'krugiyi durak,' a round fool, in the USSR."